



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P.O. BOX 8952 • MADISON, WI 53708

August 15, 2014

Department of Health Services
Secretary Kitty Rhoades
1 W Wilson Street, Room 650
Madison, WI 53707-7850

Dear Secretary Rhoades,

As members of the Wisconsin Legislature, each of us represents many of our states most vulnerable people with disabilities who utilize Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) across the state of Wisconsin. Our concern is pertaining to the proposed Family Care Waiver Plan and 5 year transition plan for public comment. This waiver document does not address whether facility based work and day services meet HCBS setting rules, which requires additional guidance from CMS. This is not expected to be distributed until later this fall after the proposed waiver is to be submitted to CMS.

While we support the plan to increase community based services, we do not feel that this transition into community placement will work appropriately for everyone. While a placement may work for one individual, it may not work for another. We, as legislators, do not want to see any of our state's most vulnerable people fall through the cracks to fit the one size fits all mold that the department and CMS are requiring.

We are requesting that you delay submitting the HCBS waiver proposal to CMS until the guidance is released, allow for another 30-day comment period once those changes are captured in the waiver request, and clarify who will cover the costs associated with the new CARF standards. Many facilities are losing money based on reductions made to Medicaid reimbursement rates. Finally, allow for a variety of options for people with disabilities, such as an integrated setting, a facility based setting, or day services.


Thank you for taking the time to consider our requests.

Sincerely,

Rep. Pat Strachota

Sen. Glenn Grothman

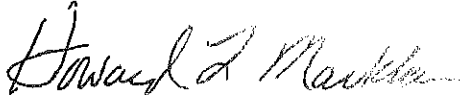
Sen. Fitzgerald


Rep. Robin Vos

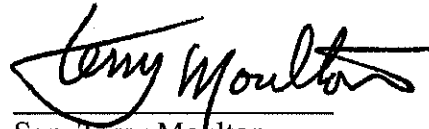
Sen. Scott Fitzgerald



Sen. Rick Gudex



Rep. Howard Marklein

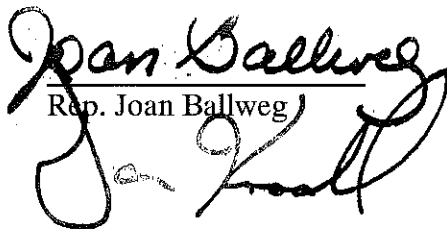


Sen. Terry Moulton



Rep. Dan LeMahieu


Sen. Frank Lasee

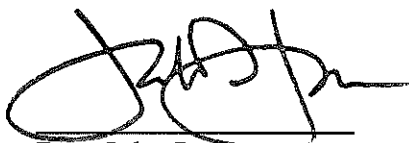


Rep. Joan Ballweg


Sen. Dale Schultz

Rep. Dan Knodl

Sen. Alberta Darling


Rep. John Jagler


Sen. Mary Lazich


Rep. Garey Bies


Sen. Sheila Harsdorf


Rep. Dean Kaufert


Sen. Mike Ellis



Rep. Andre Jacque

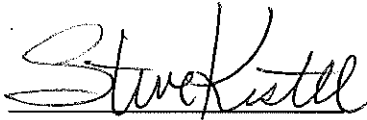
Rep. Mark Born



Rep. Keith Ripp



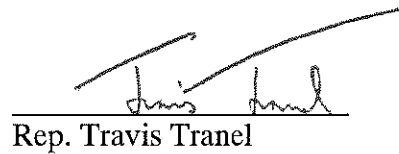
Rep. Duey Stroebel



Rep. Steve Kestell

Rep. Ken Skowronski

Rep. Mary Czaja



Rep. Travis Tranel

Rep. Joel Kleefisch

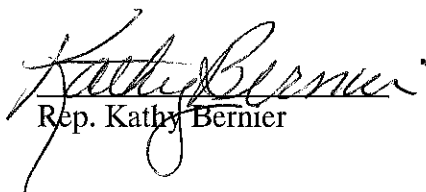


Rep. Tom Larson

Rep. John Spiros



Rep. Dave Murphy



Rep. Kathy Bernier